

**REMARKS:**

In response to the Office Action mailed on April 6, 2005, Applicant respectfully submits the following remarks.

**Claim Rejections 35 USC §103(a)**

Claims 1, 2, 6, 8, and 11-14 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ellerson et al. in view of Melton et al. Claims 7 and 10 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ellerson et al. and Melton et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Yoshihara et al. Claim 4 is objected to and contains patentable subject matter.

Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 12 and 13 to include the recitations of allowable claim 4. It is noted that claims 2, 6, 8, and 14 are dependent claims that depend from respective ones of these amended independent claims. Claim 11 has been amended to be independent, with the recitations of originally filed claim 1 included therein. It is further noted that patentability of claims 3, 5, 9, and 15, which have been restricted out and thus may be pursued in a divisional application, has not been determined. As such, Applicant reserves the right to amend these claims to have the same scope with which they were filed in any such divisional application, i.e. to depend from their respective independent claims without the requirement of the recitations of canceled claim 4. As they currently stand, however, claims 3, 5, 9, and 15 depend from the amended independent claims and thus are believed to be allowable as well.

With regard to claim 11, this claim has been amended to be in independent form with the same scope as its original filing. This was done because it is believed that the recitations of claim 11 contain patentable subject matter without the need to include the limitation of allowable claim 4. Applicant notes that the examiner, in the rejection of claim 11 over Ellerson et al. in view of Melton et al., failed to address how the combination of Ellerson and Melton obviated the recitation of claim 11. In fact, the feature of claim 11 was never mentioned at all in the office action.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that these rejections of the claims have been overcome. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims 1-3 and 5-15 are earnestly solicited at the examiner's earliest convenience. Please contact the undersigned if there are any questions regarding this response or application.

Respectfully submitted,



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